



ON TRACK

The E-Bulletin of the Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers

www.marp.org

marprail@yahoo.com

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The Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers, Inc. (MARP) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation established in 1973 to improve passenger train service, travel conditions for passengers, and to work for the preservation of historic rail stations.

Monthly meetings are held at locations around the state. Check the website for dates and venues. The public is invited to attend.

MARP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2014-2016

Larry Krieg	Chair
Steve Vagozzi	Vice-Chair
open	Treasurer
Kay Chase	Acting Secretary
John Langdon	Governmental/Public Affairs Coordinator
open	Membership Coordinator
Kay Chase	Communications Coordinator
Adam Tauno Williams	Meetings Coordinator
open	Northern Region Chair
Robert Patterson	Detroit/Metro Region Chair
Warren Fritz	West Region Chair
Steve Vagozzi	East/Central Region Chair
<i>The Michigan Passenger Editor and</i>	
<i>Webmaster, Larry Sobczak</i>	
<i>ON TRACK Editor, Kay Chase</i>	

2016 MEETINGS

16 January – REO Town Depot (former Grand Trunk Depot), Lansing

February – Cancelled

12 March – Howell

16 April – New Buffalo Library

May – Amtrak Train Days

11 June –Amtrak Station, Dearborn

9 July – Executive Committee

17 August –Marquette, in conjunction with 4th Annual MI Rail Conference

24 September –Annual Meeting at Durand Union Station

8 October – Dowagiac City Hall

12 November – Lapeer Amtrak Station (former GTW depot)

December – Executive Committee

Visit www.marp.org

Email marprail@yahoo.com

Nationally Recognized Leader is Keynote Speaker for MARP's Annual Meeting

John Robert Smith will be the keynote speaker for the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers.

Mr. Smith, known to all as "John Robert", is widely recognized as an enthusiastic and energetic champion of passenger trains and local transportation solutions designed to meet the needs of all segments of the community. He currently serves as Chairman of **Transportation for America**, an organization that is helping local leaders across the country develop smart, homegrown, locally-driven transportation solutions while making sure that the states and the federal government make the necessary investments.



During his 16-year tenure as Mayor of Meridian, Mississippi, Mr. Smith facilitated public-private partnerships to redevelop the city's **Union Station** as the Southeast's first multi-modal transportation center, a venture that spurred an additional \$430M of infrastructure projects that bolstered the economy and quality of life for the people of Meridian.

Mr. Smith is working closely with the **Southern Rail Commission** in an **initiative to restart** passenger train service between New Orleans and Florida. He has served on numerous boards, including the US Conference of Mayors and the Amtrak board of directors, serving the latter as Chairman from 1998-2003. A passionate supporter of the arts as well, he maintains the homestead his grandfather built in Meridian that has served five generations of family members.

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In lieu of the regular August meeting, MARP members are invited to attend the August 17 panel discussion organized by Chair Larry Krieg as part of the 4th Annual Michigan Rail Conference being held at Northern Michigan University in Marquette. See details elsewhere in this issue.

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43rd ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, September 24

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Durand Union Station

200 Railroad Street

Durand, MI 48439

This year's keynote speaker will be John Robert Smith, chairman of Transportation for America. Socialize with fellow MARP members, enjoy a tasty luncheon and hear the latest in Michigan rail news. Watch for an email announcement with meeting details. Online registration will be available on the MARP website. For more information, email marprail@yahoo.com.

SEE YOU IN MARQUETTE!

**AUGUST 17TH Conference**It's not too late. Register **NOW**.**AUGUST 18TH Field Visit**

Field Trips have been filled.

[CLICK HERE for Information and Registration](#)**Rail Conference Features Panel on Passenger Rail**

"Passenger Operations in an Era of Lean Public Investment" is the topic of a panel organized by MARP Chairman Larry Krieg as part of the 4th Annual Michigan Rail Conference being held at Northern Michigan University in Marquette on August 17.

The panel will take place at 12:45 pm, immediately after lunch. MARP members registered for the conference are invited to sit together at lunch. The luncheon speaker, Tom Baldini, MTU Trustee, will speak on "30 Years of U.P. Economic Development".

Panelists and topics for the 12:45 program include:

- Chad Cushman, VP Business, Indian Trails, Inc., on Amtrak Thruway service in the Upper Peninsula.

- Chris Bagwell, Executive VP & General Manager, Great Lakes Central Railroad, on restoration of passenger service in northern lower Michigan.
- Larry Krieg, Chairman Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers, with an overview of Michigan passenger trains.
- Frank Loetterle, Project Manager-Passenger Rail Office, Minnesota DOT, on the **Northern Lights Express**, a proposed higher-speed rail project linking the Twin Cities and Duluth.

The evening keynote speaker is Mr. Frank Patton, founder of **Great Lakes Basin Transportation** which has proposed building a 278-mile Chicago bypass rail line running from Milton WS to LaPorte IN.

Registration closes soon. [CLICK HERE](#) for complete information on registration, lodging, program, and field trips. The Field Trips on 18 August are filled. If you wish to be put on a stand-by list, contact Amanda Cadwell at amanda@mtu.edu, phone 906-487-1619.

[View the complete Conference Program HERE.](#)

**MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS****43rd ANNUAL MEETING**

Durand Union Station, 200 Railroad Street, Durand MI 48429

24 September 2016 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

KEYNOTE SPEAKER**John Robert Smith****Chairman, Transportation for America**

Make plans now to attend! Our keynote speaker is John Robert Smith, currently serving as Chairman of Transportation for America, is a nationally recognized advocate for passenger trains and transit. In other business, MARP will elect officers for the 2016-18 term, vote on a recommendation to revise language in the Bylaws relating to appointment and compensation of an Executive Director (see page 3 for information), and hear updates on Michigan rail projects.

The cost to attend is \$25 per person and includes a catered luncheon. The registration deadline is September 14.

Please Register _____ people at \$25 per person. Fee includes a catered lunch.

My Name _____

My guest's Name _____

\$ _____ enclosed (\$25 per person)

PRINT THIS PAGE and send with your personal check payable to MARP, Inc. to:

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ONLINE REGISTRATION is available at marp.org/?p=6192 using Pay Pal, a major credit card or debit card

ACT NOW! The deadline for registration is September 14

MARP Annual Meeting

Information & Registration

marp.org/?p=6192

What do you think, Michigan?

Hard on the heels of the Michigan Rail Conference held in Marquette, the 21st Century State Infrastructure Commission will hold a “listening session” in Room 1100, Jamrich Hall, on the campus of Northern Michigan University on Friday, August 19, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

The Commission’s listening tour is designed to gather direct input from Michigan’s residents on the current state of Michigan’s infrastructure, the infrastructure system citizens envision, and how to work together to close the gap between the two.

Attendees will have the opportunity to discuss their vision for future infrastructure systems across all sectors: transportation, water, communications, and energy. With so much talk of potholes and the safety of drinking water, it is particularly important that the commission be reminded of the importance of our rail infrastructure as part of a balanced transportation system.

CLICK HERE for details and registration. Your RSVP is required to assure space. If you are unable to attend, you are invited to join the conversation [online](#).

The 21st Century Infrastructure Commission was created by executive order and announced in Governor Snyder’s 2016 State of the State address. The Commission will release a final report and set of recommendations on November 30, 2016.

The commission previously held a session in west Michigan (Grand Rapids) and will schedule a third session in southeast Michigan.

You are invited to visit the Commission’s [website](#) and to add your thoughts to the [online conversation](#).



Supporters and Volunteers of Michigan Operation Lifesaver are invited to attend the next quarterly meeting on August 12 at 9:30am at the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Office, 4135 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, just off US 23 Exit 37A, in the Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center. Luncheon hosted by Jon Cool, Executive Director, Michigan Railroads Association. RSVP to SamCrowl@comcast.net.

[Map & Directions](#)

MARP Bylaws Change Recommended

The Executive Committee, meeting 9 July 2016, voted to recommend two amendments to Article VII Section 7.3 of the Bylaws as adopted by the membership 21 November 2015. The Executive Committee recommends these changes in order to reflect actual organizational practice of recent years while retaining the opportunity to appoint an Executive Director at some future date. The membership will vote on these amendments at the Annual Meeting, 24 September 2016, at Durand Union Station.

Recommended Amendment #1

Article VII, Section 7.3B Executive Director

Currently Reads As: *“The Chair shall appoint an Executive Director to be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.”*

Proposed Amendment: *change “shall” to “may”*

Rationale: *Makes appointment of an Executive Director optional rather than mandatory, thus reflecting actual organizational practice of the recent past*

Recommended Amendment #2

Article VII, Section 7.3C Executive Director

Currently Reads As: *“The Executive Director shall serve, without compensation, as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.”*

Proposed Amendment: *strike the phrase “without compensation”*

Rationale: *To leave open the option of compensation should the organization choose to appoint and compensate an Executive Director in the future*

Here is Article VII Section 7.3 in its entirety, with the two recommended changes noted.

7.3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

7.3A The Executive Director shall manage the daily affairs of the Corporation and shall serve at the will and direction of the Executive Committee. The Executive Director is authorized to speak for the Corporation when the Chair is not available.

7.3B The Chair ~~shall~~ *may* appoint an Executive Director to be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

7.3C The Executive Director shall serve, ~~without compensation~~, as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.

7.3D The Executive Committee may remove the Executive Director with a majority vote.

Do you agree with the STB's decision to drop a proposed rule allowing railroads to prioritize freight trains over Amtrak?

Yes	<div style="width: 62.86%; background-color: #e63373; height: 10px;"></div>	62.86% (264 votes)
No	<div style="width: 37.14%; background-color: #e63373; height: 10px;"></div>	37.14% (156 votes)

Total Votes: 420

Progressive Railroading poll conducted the week of 8/01/16

View from elsewhere . . .

“Let us hope that AAR and Amtrak will now sit down together and work out a ... way of complying with the STB ruling without jeopardizing operations of either entity. Is it too much to hope that such a discussion might help generate maps/lists of real operating bottlenecks, ideas about how to fix them and at what cost, and how to equitably share those costs? Any real solution must not divert either freight railroads' or Amtrak's existing capital investment funds from their current capital investment backlogs. The most obvious method is via a federal/state/railroad rail infrastructure fund based on secure sources not subject to annual congressional budget game-playing, just like existing highway and aviation funding.”

-- J Howard Harding, retired transportation planner, commenting on NARP's 28 July [news release](#) on the Surface Transportation Board's decisions on **preference** and **measuring on-time performance**.

“In light of the broad disagreement among the interested parties... the Board finds that going forward with its Policy Statement would not advance its original goal of facilitating a more efficient and effective rail system.”

-- The Surface Transportation board [explaining](#) its withdrawal of the proposal on preference.



New Buses Celebrate “Pure Michigan”

Indian Trails has put 10 new “Pure Michigan” motorcoaches on the road. Like giant billboards for tourism, the new buses are wrapped with photos of some of Michigan’s most popular destinations. The photographic bus wraps were created at The Vomela Companies facility in Benton Harbor MI. The new motor coaches are Prevost X3-45® models that comply with the Buy America Act, meaning they were assembled in America from components mostly manufactured in the U.S. Each carries up to 54 passengers and employs technology that reduces exhaust pollutants to near zero while achieving fuel economy of 240 passenger miles per gallon.

Check out the [news release](#) to learn how the buses were wrapped and more about Indian Trails operations in Michigan.

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